### GA Stakeholder Forum June 2017 Review Synopsis

#### PISGAH LEDGE Agreement

**General:**
- A good place to merge recreation interests with wildlife viewing – opps for interpretation and educational outreach

**Restoration and resiliency:**

**Access/Veg Management (timber and other mngt):**
- Like the utilizing the Cradle of Forestry to demonstrate restoration forestry practices – there is a lot of room to do this in Cradle

**Partnerships:**

**Fire:**

**Habitat Mngt (wildlife):**

**MA distribution:**
- An optimal blend of MAs
- This one more than other GAs has best opportunities to achieve balanced habitat conditions because of management areas.
- Very pleased with Pisgah Ledge MAs.

**Recreation:**

#### Needs Collaboration

**Restoration and resiliency:**
- Restoration in North Mills area.
- Need to address stand with offsite poplar dominance – missing in this GA, (eg. Neverending Road); Perhaps addressing offsite Maple as well as poplar; Need to address chestnut restoration for this GA
- Collaboration on how the restoration goals for entire GA will be achieved.
- Would add hydrological restoration to bog goal
- Like the goals in Bent Creek, would love to see emphasis on explaining/interpreting restoration in Bent Creek area
- Because there’s so much trail use there are a lot of eroding trails – A LOT of opps for stream restoration
- Would like to see more restoration in this GA
- Would like to see a goal for spruce restoration
- Opps for management and restoration in Cradle of Forestry
- Spruce restoration in area south of Shining Rock, Sam Knob Area

**Access/Veg Management (timber and other mngt):**
- Does not specifically address access, such as the Turkey Pen area, but access needs to be addressed GA wide
- Timber suitability clarification.
- Strategy for retaining trail mileage as a goal. Nice to get specificity about important of retaining trails and roads in this GA.
- Two areas ripe – Cedar Rock and Daniel Ridge – roadbuilding especially. Parts where timber harvest is possible. Directly impacts hikers, hunters, forest products, anglers, rock climbers in Cedar Rock, outfitters.
**Partnerships:**
- Transylvania has a strong Natural Resources Council—partner with them—they will have recommendations
- Like the emphasis on sustaining and improving aquatic habitat in Mills River watershed—listed species that are at risk due to sedimentation and pesticides. There’s a watershed restoration effort in the Mills R. partnership that the forest could look at cooperating with
- Need to do a project that shows we can all get along. CLR approach is the way to go.

**Fire:**
- Cedar Rock: Brevard wants it managed for reduced fuel load; as a result of the 2016 fires in other areas. Adjacent private land between Brevard and the Forest needs fuel reduction as well.
- When thinking about decommissioning roads, think about future mgmt. needs including fire mgmt.
- Add language about sorely needed prescribed fire program.

**Habitat Mngt (wildlife):**
- Opportunities for demonstration areas, specifically for viewing wildlife and wildlife habitat practices
- Also include demo areas for pollinator habitat.
- Enormous interest in deer hunting in this area—huge demand for this here
- Issue of hellbender population in Davidson being healthy and harassment of hellbenders—need for education
- On Yellowgap, wildlife viewing goal needed.

**MA distribution:**
- A lot of interest in the Daniel Ridge, Cedar Rock and west fork of the French Broad areas being backcountry
- Within Interface—should focus on opportunities for education—should be
the emphasis of Interface in this GA

- Feel of matrix-centric GA in a highly recreation – some components in Matrix could be different in this GA. Eg, some seasonal road openings.
- Art Loeb trail – National Recreation Trail; should this be in the MA list?
- Concern about building new system roads in interface and matrix areas that are primarily unroaded and Equal concern that area becoming default roadless areas by not actively managing

Recreation:

- Need recognition of recreational values around 276 corridor and associated climbing areas
- The issue of trail reconstruction in highly visited areas
- Like to see rock climbing community help goal - “Work with climbing communities to identify new locations of rare species.”
- Strategy for retaining trail mileage as a goal. Nice to get specificity about important of retaining trails and roads in this GA.
- Mention special use camps and Outward Bound. Discrete enough thing to have a goal – i.e. user conflict and impact issues. (also on Grandfather).
- Balance needs of permitted users with other users.
- Whatever recreational use, opportunity to demonstrate best possible collaboration.

Additional areas mentioned: Cathy Creek